

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5355

To convey certain Federal land in California to Apple Valley, California, Twentynine Palms, California, Barstow, California, and Victorville, California.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Mr. OBERNOLTE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To convey certain Federal land in California to Apple Valley, California, Twentynine Palms, California, Barstow, California, and Victorville, California.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Desert Community  
5 Lands Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE FOR APPLE VALLEY OFF-HIGHWAY  
7 VEHICLE RECREATION AREA.**

8       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9               (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
10              the Secretary of the Interior.

1                             (2) TOWN.—The term “Town” means the town  
2                             of Apple Valley, California.

3                             (b) CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO TOWN.—

4                             (1) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—At the request  
5                             of the Town, not later than 5 years after the date  
6                             of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
7                             convey to the Town, without consideration, all right,  
8                             title, and interest of the United States in and to the  
9                             surface estate of the approximately 4,630 acres of  
10                            land generally depicted as “Proposed Conveyance  
11                            Area” on the map entitled “Conveyance to Town of  
12                            Apple Valley” and dated June 1, 2015. Such land  
13                            shall be known and designated as the “Apple Valley  
14                            Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area”.

15                             (2) EXISTING RIGHTS AND MINERAL ESTATE.—

16                             The conveyance under this subsection—

- 17                             (A) is subject to valid existing rights; and  
18                             (B) does not include the mineral estate.

19                             (c) USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—

20                             (1) IN GENERAL.—The land conveyed under  
21                             subsection (b) may be used by the Town for any  
22                             public purpose authorized in paragraph (2), con-  
23                             sistent with the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly  
24                             known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act;  
25                             43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

1                             (2) AUTHORIZED PURPOSES.—The purposes of  
2                             the conveyance under subsection (b) are to allow the  
3                             Town to use the conveyed land to provide—

4                                 (A) a suitable location for the establish-  
5                             ment of a centralized off-road vehicle recreation  
6                             park;

7                                 (B) the public with opportunities for off-  
8                             road vehicle recreation, including a location for  
9                             races, competitive events, training, and other  
10                            commercial services that directly support a cen-  
11                             tralized off-road vehicle recreation area and  
12                             Town park; and

13                                 (C) a designated area and facilities that  
14                             would discourage unauthorized use of off-high-  
15                             way vehicles in areas that have been identified  
16                             by the Federal Government, the State of Cali-  
17                             fornia, or San Bernardino County as containing  
18                             environmentally sensitive land.

19                                 (3) DISPOSAL PROHIBITED.—The land con-  
20                             veyed under subsection (b) may not be disposed of  
21                             by the Town without the approval of the Secretary.

22 **SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE TO CITY OF TWENTYNINE PALMS,**

23 **CALIFORNIA.**

24                                 (a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—At the request of the  
25                             city of Twentynine Palms, California, not later than 1 year

1 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
2 of the Interior shall convey to the city of Twentynine  
3 Palms, California, without consideration, all right, title,  
4 and interest of the United States in and to the surface  
5 estate of the land generally depicted as “Proposed Convey-  
6 ance to Twentynine Palms” on the map entitled “Pro-  
7 posed Conveyance to Twentynine Palms” and dated Sep-  
8 tember 18, 2015.

9                 (b) EXISTING RIGHTS AND MINERAL ESTATE.—The  
10 conveyance under this section—

11                     (1) is subject to valid existing rights; and  
12                     (2) does not include the mineral estate.

13 **SEC. 4. CONVEYANCE TO CITY OF BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA.**

14                 (a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—At the request of the  
15 city of Barstow, California, not later than 1 year after  
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
17 the Interior shall convey to the city of Barstow, California,  
18 without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the  
19 United States in and to the surface estate of the land gen-  
20 erally depicted as “Proposed Conveyance” on the map en-  
21 titled “Proposed Conveyance to the City of Barstow” and  
22 dated January 13, 2017.

23                 (b) EXISTING RIGHTS AND MINERAL ESTATE.—The  
24 conveyance under this section—

25                     (1) is subject to valid existing rights; and

1                             (2) does not include the mineral estate.

2   **SEC. 5. CONVEYANCE TO CITY OF VICTORVILLE, CALI-**  
3                             **FORNIA.**

4                             (a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—At the request of the  
5   city of Victorville, California, not later than 1 year after  
6   the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
7   the Interior shall convey to the city of Victorville, Cali-  
8   fornia, without consideration, all right, title, and interest  
9   of the United States in and to the surface estate of the  
10   land generally depicted as “Proposed Conveyance” on the  
11   map entitled “Proposed Conveyance to the City of  
12   Victorville” and dated April 25, 2017.

13                             (b) EXISTING RIGHTS AND MINERAL ESTATE.—The  
14   conveyance under this subsection—

15                             (1) is subject to valid existing rights;  
16                             (2) does not include the mineral estate; and  
17                             (3) is subject to the reservation of a permanent  
18   easement and right of way for flood control, utility,  
19   pipeline, or telecommunications facilities located  
20   within the strips of land described in the right of  
21   way grant from the United States Department of  
22   the Interior to Pacific Gas and Electric Company,  
23   Serial Number R 06259, dated March 2, 1965, and  
24   the easement from J. Harley Long to Pacific Gas  
25   and Electric Company, dated February 4, 1957, and

1       recorded in Book 4192, Official Records at page 42,  
2       San Bernardino County Records.

3       These easements include the right, at any time and from  
4       time to time, to construct, reconstruct, maintain, operate,  
5       replace, remove, repair, renew, and enlarge facilities for  
6       public utility purposes, the right to trim and cut down  
7       trees and brush that the public utility may deem to be  
8       a hazard to its facilities, and the requirement that the  
9       strips of land be kept open and free of buildings, struc-  
10      tures, and wells of any kind.

